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associate professor of botany at the University of Kentucky.

UNDER a grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. C. H. Kauffman spent the month of August, 1917, in the state of Colorado studying the genus *Cortinari* for his proposed monograph. In September, Dr. Kauffman began his work as a pathological inspector with the Federal Horticultural Board with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

THE Herbert Spencer Lecture for 1917 was delivered by Professor Emile Boutroux, member of the "Institut" and the French Academy, and Doctor of Letters of the University of Oxford, on October 20, in the Oxford University Museum. The subject of the lecture was "The relation between thought and action from the German and from the classical point of view." The lecture was delivered in English.

THE Bradshaw Lecture on "The causes of disease" was given before the Royal College of Physicians on November 8 by Professor Ernest S. Reynolds, physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. The FitzPatrick lectures were delivered on November 13, 14 and 15, by Dr. Arnold Chaplin, known for his studies of the Napoleonic period, on "Medicine in England during the reign of George III."

DR. J. S. FLETT gives this year the course of twelve Swiney lectures on geology at the Royal Society of Arts on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, beginning on Tuesday, November 13. The subject is "The Mineral Resources of the British Empire."

MEMORIAL services were held at Cornell University Medical College for the late Dr. Lewis A. Stimson, professor of surgery at the college from the time of its foundation in 1898 to his death on September 17, this year. Among the speakers were Mr. Elihu Root, President Jacob Gould Schurman, of Cornell; Dr. Gilman Thompson, professor of medicine, emeritus; Howard Townsend, president of the board of governors of New York Hospital, and Dr. Edward L. Keys.

PROFESSOR EDWARD HULL, LL.D., F.R.S., late director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, died on October 18, in his eighty-ninth year.

A BRONZE tablet commemorating Dr. Simon Baruch's connection with the campaign for public baths in New York City was unveiled at the Simon Baruch Public Baths, formerly the Rivington Street baths on October 29. The tablet was donated by Mrs. Belle Baruch through the Association for the Promotion of Hygiene and Public Baths. Borough President Marcus M. Marks made the address of acceptance in behalf of the city.

Nature states that the late Mr. Cawthron left £250,000 to the city of Nelson, New Zealand, for scientific research. The trustees are the bishop of the diocese, the member for the district, the mayor of Nelson, two chairmen of local bodies and a personal friend of the deceased. The site of the proposed institute has been purchased, and the appointment of a director and staff is under consideration. The object of the institute is, primarily, scientific research work for the benefit of the province of Nelson and the Dominion of New Zealand. The province of Nelson is mostly concerned with fruit, agriculture and minerals.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By recent decision of the court Wilberforce University has come into possession of \$30,000 of the Charles Avery estate in Pittsburgh. The fund is to be used for endowment purposes.

COMMITTEES representing Leander Clark College, of Toledo, and Coe College, of Cedar Rapids, recently voted to merge these two institutions. Coe College will absorb Leander Clark with its endowment of about \$250,000.

SIR WILLIAM TATEM has given £25,000 for a laboratory at the University College of South Wales, Cardiff.

As has been already announced Dr. Ralph H. McKee has been appointed to take charge of the graduate work in industrial organic chemistry (department of chemical engineer-

ing) at Columbia University, New York City. Dr. McKee was at the head of the department of chemistry of the University of Maine from 1909 to 1916, leaving this position a year ago to enter commercial chemical work in New York City as head of the research department of the Tennessee Copper Company. While at Maine he initiated and developed the department for the making of pulp and paper, the first of its kind to be established in any college in this country.

THE personnel of the department of geology and mining engineering at Iowa State College, Ames, Ia., is now as follows: Head of department, Dr. S. W. Beyer, who is also dean of the division of engineering, vice A. Marston, now major of the Battalion of Engineers, Iowa National Guard; L. C. Hodson and Dr. S. L. Galpin, associate professors of mining engineering; H. F. Staley, professor of ceramic engineering; Dr. Chas. A. Mann, associate professor of chemical engineering; John E. Smith, assistant professor of geology.

DR. J. E. MARR, University lecturer in geology in Cambridge University, has been elected to the Woodwardian professorship of geology in succession to the late Professor McKenny Hughes.

F. DE QUERVAIN, professor of surgery at the University of Basle, has accepted a call to the medical faculty of Berne as successor to Professor Kocher.

J. JADASSOHN, professor of dermatology at the University of Berne, has been appointed professor in Breslau in succession to Professor Neisser, who died some months ago.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE AN EXTRAORDINARY RAINFALL RECORD

DURING a recent visit to the Hawaiian Islands, I had occasion to do some collecting on Kauai, the northern island of the group. While there I made a trip to a region of such extraordinary precipitation that it seemed worthy of record.

The island is almost circular in outline, rather less than thirty miles in its greatest diameter. It consists for the most part of a

plateau averaging about 3,500-4,000 feet in elevation, but rising to a little over 5,000 feet at Mt. Waialeale, almost in the center of the island.

As in all the Hawaiian Islands the windward (NE.) side has a very heavy precipitation, while on the leeward side the rainfall is very light.

The central part of Kauai, culminating in Mt. Waialeale, has the heaviest precipitation of any station in the Hawaiian group, and can be equalled by very few regions anywhere, where rainfall data have been kept. In one year over 600 inches fell, and for the five years—1912-1916—the average was slightly more than 500 inches.

Waialeale is seldom free from rain clouds, and the precipitation is almost incessant. In consequence the whole region near it is a bog, partly covered with a forest of low trees, thickly draped with dripping masses of mosses and liverworts, but a good deal of the region, including the summit of Waialeale, is an open bog, covered with coarse grasses and sedges, with a few stunted shrubs and various characteristic bog plants.

TABLE I

Precipitation at Waialeale, Island of Kauai, Territory of Hawaii

Elevation above sea level 5,075 feet	
Year	Rainfall in Inches
1912	399.35
1913	453.00
1914	610.00
1915	590.00
1916	539.70

Precipitation at Waimea Village, Island of Kauai, Territory of Hawaii

Elevation above sea level 10 feet	
Year	Rainfall in Inches
1912	20.50
1913	23.58
1914	24.50
1915	13.40
1916	22.05

Distance Waimea to Waialeale (air line) 13.5 miles.

My guide on this expedition was Mr. W. V. Hardy, hydrographer of the United States Geological Survey, who has been keeping records